



## Legislation Text

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**File #:** 17-0098, **Version:** 1

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### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

#### **RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATION OF HARMS FLATWOODS AS AN ILLINOIS NATURE PRESERVE BY THE ILLINOIS NATURE PRESERVES COMMISSION**

**WHEREAS**, on January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017, at the 225<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission Harms Flatwoods was approved for dedication as an Illinois Nature Preserve (“INP”); and

**WHEREAS**, dedication of a site as a Nature Preserve provides the highest level of protection for land in Illinois, and is granted only to natural areas of exceptional ecological quality; and

**WHEREAS**, Harms Flatwoods Nature Preserve, a 102-acre preserve located in the Village of Skokie in northeast Cook County, consists of high quality northern flatwoods and mesic upland forest and supports a diverse community of native plants and wildlife, including 2 species listed as threatened or endangered in Illinois; and

**WHEREAS**, Harms Flatwoods Nature Preserve exhibits an excellent climax canopy community made up mostly of white oak, swamp white oak, bur oak, and red oak; and

**WHEREAS**, formal ecological management of the site has been ongoing since the late 1970s, and was conducted primarily by volunteer stewards under the guidance of scientists and Forest Preserve staff; and

**WHEREAS**, Harms Flatwoods Nature Preserve has benefitted from extensive volunteer participation by the North Branch Restoration Project, whose countless hours of service and dedication have helped make the site what it is today; and

**WHEREAS**, dedication of Harms Flatwoods as an Illinois Nature Preserve advances the goal set forward in the Next Century Conservation Plan to dedicate 20,000 acres as INP protected land by 2025, and is consistent with the recommendations of the Natural and Cultural Resources Master Plan;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners of the Forest Preserves of Cook County does hereby acknowledge this momentous dedication and the Forest Preserves' steadfast commitment to protect and restore our region's significant natural resources; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to the North Branch Restoration Project as a token of appreciation for their service to the Forest Preserves and the residents of Cook County.